

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

DHA-02 CU-04 EB-07 AGR-01 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

SCSE-00 MCT-01 SY-05 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 /077 W

-----132100Z 053745 /63

O R 131958Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2199

INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS BRASILIA 4826

DEPT PASS USDEL OASGA GRENADA TO SECRETARY VANCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG OAS BR SHUM ECON XA

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER CRITICIZES US APPROACH ON HUMAN RIGHTS,
COFFEE PRICES, HANDLING OF MISSIONARIES AND STUDENT
INCIDENTS

1.SUMMARY: SPEAKING AT AN IMPROMPTU AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE
IN RIO JUNE 11 ENROUTE TO GRENADA, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA
CRITICIZED THE US HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE FOR BEING "ONE-
EYED, LOOKING AT ONLY ONE SIDE." ALSO DECLARED THAT
MRS. CARTER HAD REAFFIRMED THE USG COMMITMENT TO THE
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO PRESIDENT GEISEL. SILVEIRA
STATED THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY
VANCE AT THE OASGA, OR RELATIONS WITH US IN GENERAL, TO
BE AFFECTED BY REPERCUSSIONS FROM MRS. CARTER'S MEETINGS WITH
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US MISSIONARIES IN RECIFE ON THE US PARTY'S ACCEPTANCE OF A
LETTER FROM STRIKING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. CONSIDERING THE US APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS AS
BEING PARTIAL AND "ONE-EYED," SILVEIRA CRITIZED THE US
PRESS FOR WHAT HE TERMED ITS "INCORRECT, UNJUST AND
EXAGGERATED" COVERAGE OF THE ARREST OF TWO AMERICAN

MISSIONARIES IN RECIFE, WHOM HE NOTED ARE IN GOOD CONDITION, WHILE MORE OR LESS IGNORING THE TURMOIL IN CHICAGO IN WHICH "POLICE KILLED TWO AND WOUNDED 133 PUERTO RICANS." ACCORDING TO O GLOBO, SILVEIRA WENT ON TO SAY THAT SUCH INCIDENTS OCCUR IN THE US MORE OFTEN THAN IS REALIZED, RECALLING A 1974 CASE IN WHICH TWO PRESUMED TERRORISTS WERE KILLED BY MISTAKE BY US POLICE. ACCORDING TO O GLOBO'S VERSION, SILVEIRA ALSO EXPRESSED "SHOCK" AND INCOMPREHENSION WITH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY FOR HAVING RELEASED ONLY PART OF THE NOTE DELIVERED TO ITAMARATY IN CONNECTION WITH THE IMPRISONMENT OF THE TWO MISSIONARIES: "FROM A DOCUMENT THAT BEINGS BY THANKING THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE ACTIONS IT WAS TAKING WITH REGARD TO THE MISSIONARIES, THE EMBASSY PRESS OFFICE RELEASED ONLY THAT PART (OF THE NOTE) WHICH REFERRED TO WASHINGTON'S CONCERN OVER THE SITUATION OF THE TWO AMERICAN CITIZENS ARRESTED IN RECIFE."

3. THE FONMIN SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE--OR RELATIONS WITH THE US IN GENERAL--TO BE AFFECTED BY THE REACTION OF THE AMERICAN PRESS AND PUBLIC TO THE IMPRISONMENT OF THE TWO MISSIONARIES IN RECIFE BY THE LETTER GIVEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN BY UNIVERSITY OF BRASILIA STUDENTS. O GLOBO VERSION HAD SILVEIRA SAYING THAT HE WOULD CONSIDER IT "VERY SERIOUS" IF TODMAN DID IN FACT PROVIDE COPIES OF THE LETTER TO JOURNALISTS, AS HAS BEEN ALLEGED BY PRESIDENTIAL PALACE SOURCES. JORNAL DO BRASIL, HOWEVER, REPORTED SILVEIRA WAS ASKED ABOUT POSSIBLE CIA INVOLVEMENT IN LETTER AFFAIR AND REPLIED THAT, UNCLASSIFIED

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IN SPITE OF THE LACK OF ANY PROOF WHICH CONFIRMS OR REBUTS IT, HE HOPED IT WAS NOT SO AS IT WOULD BE "UNDUE INTERFERENCE."

4. SILVEIRA STATED THAT HIS MEETING IN PARIS WITH SECRETARY VANCE HAD BEEN CONSTRUCTIVE AND THAT HE HOPED THAT THE TWO COULD DISCUSS IN GRENADA SOME ISOLATED PROBLEMS OF AN ECONOMIC NATURE, SUCH AS THE FACT THAT "36 PERCENT OF BRAZILIAN EXPORTS TO THE US RUN THE RISK OF UNILATERAL (TARIFF) MEASURES." HE ADDED THAT BRAZIL DOES NOT TODAY HAVE AN AUTOMATIC ALIGNMENT WITH ANY OTHER NATION: "IT (BRAZIL) HAS FRIENDSHIPS. IT HAS A TRADITION OF GOOD RELATIONS. HOWEVER, IT IS NECESSARY TO EXPLORE THE AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND ALSO TO TRY AND OVERCOME THE AREAS OF DIVERGENCE, AS LONG AS THIS DOES NOT INVOLVE ANY COMPROMISE OF BRAZILIAN NATIONAL INTERESTS." SILVEIRA ADDED THAT THE VOLUME OF US-BRAZILIAN RELATIONS MAKES SOME DIFFERENCES INEVITABLE.

5. SILVEIRA REITERATED THAT MRS. CARTER HAD REAFFIRMED THE USG COMMITMENT TO THE MOU TO HIMSELF, PRESIDENT GEISEL, AND AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS, ADDING THAT SHE WAS VERY WELL BRIEFED ON THE MATTER. AND HAD CALLED FOR EARLY MEETINGS OF THE TRADE AND ENERGY SUBGROUPS. COMMENTING ON MRS. CARTER'S STATEMENT IN BOGOTA ON HIGH COFFEE PRICES, HE ALSO STATED THAT MRS. CARTER HAD SHOWN SOME UNDERSTANDING HERE OF THE COFFEE PROBLEM, WHICH HE NOTED WAS A PRICE INCREASE CAUSED BY SCARCITY. THEN SILVEIRA ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY AMERICANS RESENT THE HIGH PRICE OF COFFEE AND NOT THAT OF OIL.

6. SILVEIRA ALSO MADE A PASSING REFERENCE TO THE ITAIPU PROJECT, SAYING THAT BRAZIL COULD ACCEPT A DECISION BY PARAGUAY IN FAVOR OF EITHER 50 OR 60 CYCLES, "BECAUSE IT WILL NOT PREJUDICE BRAZIL IN EITHER CASE." HE REFUSED ANY FURTHER COMMENT, HOWEVER, SAYING THAT THE DECISION WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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PARAGUAY'S TO MAKE AND HE DID NOT WISH TO INTERFERE. CRIMMINS

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED ADDRESSEE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS COMMENTS, COFFEE, PRESS CONFERENCES, MISSIONARIES, ARRESTS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770210-1081
Format: TEL
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770665/aaaaceit.tel
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 623c4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 2180600
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PORG, SHUM, ECON, SOPN, ETRD, BR, XA, US, OAS, (AZEREDO DA SILVEIRA, ANTONIO FRANC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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